



BACKGROUND OF INVENTION

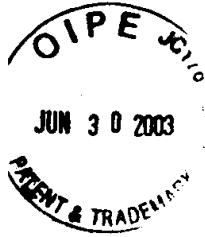
This invention relates to a new and distinct intergeneric hybrid plant of *Mangletia insignis* and *Magnolia virginiana*, both members of the Magnoliaceae. The distinct features of this hybrid are it's pink flowers on an evergreen magnolia plant. There are a number of deciduous species of magnolia with pink flowers but no evergreen American species with pink flowers.

The *Mangletia insignis*, from China, was secured as a cutting from the Strybing Arboretum in San Francisco over thirty years ago. The rooted cutting was subsequently planted in the atrium (enclosed garden) of the home of S. Christopher Early in Atlanta.

The *Magnolia virginiana* is a version of the species growing around Savannah, Ga., which blooms as a small plant. It's seedlings are often cut down by the mowers clearing the roadside. Several of these seedlings were planted near the home of S. Christopher Early in Atlanta.

After several years the *M. insignis* bloomed and pollen from the *M. virginiana* was applied to the pistils of the *M. insignis* over a two year period. A fertile seed pod subsequently appeared with several seed. From these seed have come six seedlings, one of which has bloomed and is the subject of this application. It and one of the other seedlings are over twelve feet tall. All of the siblings have survived cold spells over twenty five years down to as low as ten degrees F. The size of the bloom are between those of the two parents., about 12 cm. The seed pods of this plant do not form pollen nor do the pistils accept pollen, but dry up after a week or so. This condition could change with more favorable growing conditions. Cuttings have been rooted and grafts have been made.

I have named this plant 'Katie O Early', after my mother, who was a great lover of people and flowers.



JUN 30 2003

SUMMARY OF INVENTION

Trees of the plant Katie-O Early have not been observed under all possible environmental conditions. The phenotype may vary somewhat with variations in environment and culture such as temperature, light intensity, daylength, water status, ph of soil, mineral content of soil, and/or fertilizer rate or type, without, however, any variance of genotype.

The following trait has been observed and is determined to be the unique trait of 'Katie-O Early'.

Pink flowers appearing on an evergreen hybrid magnolia plant. It is otherwise similar to both of its parents, pink flowered Mangletia insignis and white flowered Magnolia virginiana.

1. Compact upright pyramidal, and uniform plant habit.
2. Freely branching habit.
3. Upright lateral branch orientation.
4. Medium green leaves.
5. Rapid growth habit.

DESCRIPTION OF PHOTOGRAPHS

Figure 1, shows a colored photograph of the flower of Mangletia insignis, the female parent.

Figure 2, shows a colored photograph of two flowers of our native Magnolia virginiana, the male parent.

Figure 3, shows a colored photograph of the hybrid plant of 'Katie-O Early'.

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DETAILED BOTANICAL DESCRIPTION

In the following description, color reference is made to the Munsell Color System that uses the three major optical entities that define color, hue, saturation and brightness. The photographs were made of the hybrid in late May. The photographs of the parents were made about the same time. Seeds from the only developed pod were sown in cans in a protected area. The seedlings were later transplanted to an area of the yard of S. Christopher Early in Atlanta, Ga.

Botanical Classification

Mangletia insignis x Magnolia virginiana
‘Katie-O Early’

Parentage

Female parent, *Mangletia insignis*, was grown from a cutting received from the Strybing Arboretum in San Francisco, Ca.

Male parent, plant from seedlings of *Magnolia virginiana* found growing near Savannah, Ga.

Propagation

Stem cuttings rooted in greenhouse of Atlanta Botanical Garden. Side grafts made at Atlanta Botanical Garden on *Magnolia grandiflora*, *Magnolia virginiana* and *Magnolia kobus*.

Plant description

Form- Persistent evergreen broadleaf tree.

Habit- Symmetrical, narrowly pyramidal uniform plant, freely branching, pruning not required, rapid growth rate. Lateral branches about 50 centimeters with over one centimeter stem diameter.

Plant height- Four meters from seed after 25 years.

Trunk diameter- Ten centimeters.

Foliage description- Leaves acute, 14-18 cm., Munsell Color 5gy 4/3, undersurface with white pubescence.

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Inflorescence

Flower type and habit- Solitary terminal flowers, facing mostly upward. Flowers not persistant.

Natural flowing season- May and June in Atlanta.

Flower longevity on plant- About three days.

Fragrance- Like Magnolia virginiana, similar to "Johnson's Baby Powder".

Corolla- 12 cm in diameter, eight petals.

Color- Munsell 2.5 R 9/3 pale pink, darkens with age, color is the outstanding feature.

Fertility- Atrophy of seed, sterility